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# Extension Service REVIEW

To be strong a people must be well nourished. Proper food for mothers and children depends upon factors such as agricultural production and distribution, maintenance of family income, and education in nutrition and health.

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# The Farmers' Part in Defense

**CLAUDE R. WICKARD, Secretary of Agriculture**



■ Within the last few months, a new phrase, "total defense," has found its way into the language of the American people.

These words sum up the task we must shoulder if we are not to be victims of the dictators' "total war."

But I wonder if all of us have given thought to that word "total" as applied to our defense problem. If we are to have a "total defense," each one of us must be ready to play his part, and each one of us must try to understand our defense problem as a whole.

What is expected of farmers in the way of action for defense? And what is the total defense picture they should try to understand?

These are questions which every county agent will want to ask himself, as he tries to become a useful connecting link between Uncle Sam and the farmer, in the defense effort.

Let us take a quick look at the action farmers can take.

First of all, they can keep on with their national farm program. While this program was launched primarily as a peace-time measure, it serves equally well as a measure of preparedness.

Probably most farmers do not realize the extent to which this program is sustaining farm prices and farm income against the shock of changes brought by the war abroad. They remember how the first World War, after its first year, brought expansion of farm exports. But this time farmers are finding that the foreign markets for their big export commodities, such as cotton, wheat, tobacco, apples, and lard, are drastically reduced. Without the farm program, the falling off in export sales would doubtless have had a very upsetting effect on farm prices. It is estimated that, without the farm program, farm income this year would be about 2½ billion dollars

less than the expected total of \$8,900,000,000.

Another way in which the farm program helps in defense is in the storage of reserve supplies of farm commodities. The substantial reserve stocks of wheat, corn, cotton, and other commodities are a protection against shortage or unexpected demands.

Still another important aspect of the farm program from the standpoint of defense is the conservation of soil fertility. During the first World War, in response to patriotic appeals to expand food production, farmers plowed up millions of acres that had previously been in grass. Most of this land ought never to have been plowed, and much of the wind and water erosion of the last 20 years can be traced back to that unfortunate mistake. This time, it is not likely that there will be the demand for increased export production. But there is continuing need for saving and building soil, and farmers have the advantage of the National Farm Program, which not only enables them to prevent further waste of their soil but helps them to restore it.

Protection of farm income, storage of reserve supplies, and conservation of the soil are phases of the farm program which involve action by the farmers themselves.

Another phase touches them almost as directly. I refer to the measures for getting farm surpluses into the hands of families in need—the Food Stamp Plan, School Lunch Program, Low-Cost Milk Programs, Cotton Stamp Plan, and Home-made Mattress Program. These measures not only help farm income, but they help tremendously toward giving our people the health and strength they must have if they are going to be capable of defending the Nation.

As every farmer will realize, the part played by agriculture in the action phase of the national defense effort is extremely important. But an accurate understanding of America's defense problem is equally vital.

I do not mean that farmers should try to become familiar with all the technical details of modern defense—the uses to which tanks, planes, antiaircraft guns and battle-

ships may be put. Of course, like all our citizens, farmers want to know in a general way what is being done.

Like all citizens, too, farm families want and need to understand what America is defending—the things that we cherish and will spend our treasure and if necessary our blood to preserve. All will agree, I believe, that our unity in defense must be based upon our civil liberties—freedom of speech, of religion, of petition, of press. It must be based upon a fair economic opportunity for all Americans willing to work, and the democratic way of doing things which gives every citizen whose interests are involved a chance to have his say in the formulation of policies, and to play his part in putting the policies into effect.

These are our ancient faiths which must be justified by works in order to achieve the national unity that is the very cornerstone of defense. Farm people and all people must keep alive these American ideals and make them dynamic in thought and in deed.

Also, I feel it is very important for both farm and city people to know and understand the changes that are taking place in the world, and those events which, even though they seem thousands of miles from our shores, vitally affect our welfare and security.

It is especially important to keep in close touch with the movement for Pan-American solidarity. As we strive for closer relations with our neighbors to the South, we run into real problems—both commercial and cultural. One of the problems is to spread a better understanding of the United States among the Latin-American people and a better understanding of Latin-American countries among our own people.

Rural citizens can play a valuable part in this phase of our defense effort. They can take the lead in developing a realization of the common purpose which will knit the Americas into hemispheric unity. Leaders of farm communities who wish to get actively into the defense picture need information and inspiration.

(Continued on page 151)

# EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

For November 1940 • Lester A. Schlup, Editor

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

## Land Use Planning for Defense

Looming more important than ever, in view of the national defense program, is county land use planning. The part that county and community planning committees are playing in building and maintaining a strong defense can be gathered from a description of the work in Miami County, Ohio.

Well aware of their heritage are the 64 women and more than 100 men on the 12 land use planning committees in Miami County, Ohio. They say: "Six generations have reaped from this soil the bounties for their living. All of these generations have contributed much toward developing the communities we have today. It is up to us to recommend the practices that will, in the end, leave Miami County a little better than we found it."

Their words are an inspiring clue to the role of land use planning committees in the national defense program. The planning committees in Miami County strongly recommended that the agricultural conservation programs be continued and strengthened; they urged a pasture-improvement program, including the application of lime and fertilizer and rotation of grazing areas; they suggested that the crop insurance program should be broadened to include other crops. Alert to the vital importance of human and natural resources in a program of national defense, the committee members are planning other ways to improve the lot of the farmer and the land on which he works.

The chief physical land use problem in Miami County is the maintenance of productivity. It is estimated that on only about 15 percent of the land is productivity being maintained. Although soil erosion is not an acute problem, there are some areas of moderate erosion and occasional gullies.

What are the local people doing to improve the land?

The county land use planning committee is composed of 24 people. Twelve of these 24

are the chairmen of township or community land use committees. The rest of the county committee is made up of representatives from the Federal Farm Loan Association, AAA, FSA, Ohio Division of Forestry, Grange, Farm Bureau, SCS, a farmers' elevator, and the home demonstration agent and county agricultural agent. The 12 community or township committees consist of 103 farm men and 64 farm women. At the same time that the men on the community committees studied the physical and economic aspects of the county, the women made a study of home life and community affairs.

Based upon the work done by the community committees, some of the most important things reported by the county committee are as follows:

All areas of Miami County are well suited to agriculture and should remain in agriculture. For the purpose of recommending specific land use practices, the county was divided into three types of areas: level upland, rolling land, and the creek and river bottom land. Three-fourths of the land in the county—the level upland—was classified as good cropland; about 14 percent, rolling land; and about 8 percent, bottom land. For the bottom land, where small grain is adapted, the committee proposed a rotation of corn, wheat, and clover. For the rest of the bottom land, a rotation of corn, barley, and clover mixtures was suggested. One-third of the rolling land, the committee continued, should be in woods, one-third, permanent pasture; and one-third, strip-cropped. And on the strip-cropped land, a 4-year rotation of corn, wheat, and alfalfa was proposed.

Although the average-size family farm at present is 80 acres with 55 acres in crops, the committee felt that a more desirable family-sized farm would be 100 acres with 85 acres in crops and the rest in pasture and wood lots. For the land devoted to permanent pasture, a pasture-improvement program was suggested including the application of lime and fertilizer and the rotation of grazing areas.

On the home and community side, the women on the community committees found that an adequate and stable farm income was the most important thing in providing a desirable home life and that farmers needed more income to maintain an acceptable standard of living comparable to that enjoyed by people in the cities. The women pointed out that the home is the greatest factor of influence in a child's life, but there are at present so many community activities that they are gradually crowding out a desirable home life. They added that there are 432 organizations or community activities in Miami County, and the average farm family is bewildered in attempting to participate in all which appear to be desirable activities.

Other findings relative to the home and community were that the church is next to the home as the most important influencing factor in family life and that schools are becoming the center of community activity. It was pointed out that commercial entertainment is very greatly retarding creative activities by the people themselves.

Specifically, the women recommended that each family should give more attention to the activities that directly influence and shape the character of their children and budget their activities in community affairs to include these most desirable activities. They also proposed that each community should plan a community calendar of activities in conjunction with a county calendar so that conflicts in meeting dates might be eliminated, and that youth and adult activities might be held on the same evenings in the same locality in order that there might be more nights for home life.

# Results of Forage-Livestock Schools Run Into Big Figures

■ Improvement of grazing and forage conditions in Mississippi over a period of years has been like the weather, "much discussed but little done about it." Recommendations as to needs too frequently were nullified by stories of "year-round pastures" and low wintering costs.

Forage and livestock schools were discussed in a group meeting of extension men in connection with a 1938 spring field workers' council. This discussion resulted in a request for a joint conference of resident teaching, experiment station, and extension workers in agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal husbandry, and dairying. It was decided to hold four 2-day schools on branch experiment stations.

These schools were held in August with all divisions and departments of Mississippi State College directly concerned participating. The experience gained indicated that the schools should be repeated in 1939, but should be for 1 day only. It was decided that in as far as possible, demonstrations should be substituted for lectures and that all agricultural action agencies should be invited to participate.

The forage-livestock schools of 1939, held at the branch experiment stations, aroused great interest, especially among county agents and the personnel of various cooperating action agencies, but so few farmers attended that it seemed to the participants that some fundamental changes should be made to justify the continuation of the program.

In the light of the recommended changes, the revised plans for 1940 included holding the schools on privately owned farms rather than at the experiment station.

By December 1, eight farms had been chosen, which were easily accessible and well distributed throughout the State. State committees were appointed in the fall of 1939 to work through the local county agents. Members of the experiment stations or State extension force went with the local county agent to visit these farms. The agent assumed responsibility for local preparations. A second visit was made at the farm 10 to 14 days before the date set for the school by a member of the State organization. Inexpensive home-built equipment not on the grounds was brought to the farm and the complete demonstration was given in as far as possible to prevent possible misconceptions. The demonstration idea was further developed at this year's schools, though plenty of time was allowed for free discussion.

The 1940 forage and livestock schools were held during the first part of August and were more satisfactory than those of previous years from the standpoint of number and character



Demonstrations were the order of the day. (Above) Ensiling soybeans in a temporary silo which can be quickly and cheaply set up. (Below) Cutting corn with a V-shape silage crop harvester made at home at a cost of \$5 for material.



of attendance and farmer comment. Attendance at the five schools averaged 300.

Instruction in the 1940 forage-livestock schools was under three major heads of pasture, silage, and hay; and committees had been assigned to prepare demonstrations in each. The pasture committee had built a 10-foot, home-made, lime, phosphate, or basic slag distributor, use of which was demonstrated at each school. The use of an endgate distributor and of a grain drill with fertilizer attachment for applying phosphate to pasture sod was demonstrated. The silage committee had made a practical, low-cost, V-shaped silage crop harvester, demonstrating this at each school together with the setting up of a practical 18-ton, welded-wire, paper-lined silo which was filled in conjunction with the silage demonstration. The hay committee had arranged demonstrations in handling of hay from mowing to baling or putting in the mow. An exhibit of U. S. hay samples was displayed and discussed. The extension agricultural engineering division demon-

strated how to keep the mowing machine and silage cutter in adjustment, to operate most efficiently and last longest.

What is being done on farms about forage as the result of these and related activities? Mississippi farmers last year in connection with the AAA program applied 996,300 pounds of superphosphate, used 35,061,000 pounds of basic slag, constructed 45,749,000 feet of standard terraces, planted 197,750 pounds of seed on old pasture, contoured 3,509,250 feet of non-crop, open pasture land, applied 1,201,500 pounds of ground limestone and seeded 68,626 acres of biennial legumes and 850,795 acres of winter legumes and seeded 17,578 acres of permanent pasture. Tame-hay production in 1939 totaled 1,078,000 tons as compared with a 1928-32 average production of 497,000 tons. The forage-livestock situation in Mississippi is far from solved, but it is assuming gradually a more hopeful aspect.

# Credit and 4-H Clubs Bring Land Use Adjustments

■ Sound credit and a strong 4-H Club program have been jointly used by J. A. McClellan, Jr., county agricultural agent, to bring about needed agricultural adjustments in Pasco County, Fla. More than 100 boys have been directly provided credit; more than 200 families have good family cows, and a much larger number are keeping well-bred hogs as a result of this program.

When Mr. McClellan assumed the duties of county agent for Pasco County in November 1935, he found the farmers much discouraged with the situation. For a number of years they had obtained a large part of their income from the sale of truck crops. More recently, areas south of them had been able to produce more cheaply and earlier and, to a large extent, to take away the market for their fruit and vegetables. Pasco County farmers had just become aware of the fact that they had placed too much dependence on these risky cash crops. A large number of families had no milk cows or very poor ones and no hogs for their home meat supply. At the same time the considerable areas of unused land were being increased by acreages on which truck crops were no longer grown.

## *Revolving Fund Established*

Just as a starter, an interested citizen donated \$50 for the county agent to lend to three 4-H Club boys to buy purebred pigs. When repaid, this amount was to become a revolving fund from which loans to other boys to buy more pigs would be made.

A canvass of the eleven 4-H Clubs which were active in the county showed that 26 boys wished to grow dairy heifers but that fewer than 5 of them had the money with which to buy them. Mr. McClellan found that local credit sources were not interested in providing credit to these boys for the purchase of calves. When he presented the idea to the Production Credit Association, however, a loan of \$400 was granted to these 20-odd boys. A farmer became co-sponsor with Mr. McClellan for this loan and advised the boys' committee which acted on the application.

With the boys' credit problem solved, Mr. McClellan placed 20 additional dairy heifers with adult farmers. This enabled him to buy a small carload of 46 purebred Jersey calves from Tennessee.

In the meantime, the county 4-H Club council had been raising money to add to the loan fund. By the end of the first year, 23 registered pigs, 2 mature gilts, and 3 registered boars were in the hands of 4-H Club members. The 4-H Club council has raised a total of \$2,600, which has been used in promoting vari-

ous phases of the agricultural program in the county.

One of the most important uses made of this money has been increasing the \$50 revolving fund until it now amounts to \$500. During the 4 years, more than 100 boys have been granted loans from this fund. Some of them have been granted loans 2, 3, or 4 times; and one has received 5 loans.

A member who wishes to obtain a loan makes an application to the county 4-H Club council for the amount he needs. This council is composed of the officers of all the community 4-H Clubs in the county. It is organized by electing 5 officers—president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter. These officers act as an executive committee for the council and handle the loans of the organization as well as being responsible for other activities. The council officer who lives nearest the applicant visits his home and makes an investigation to determine whether or not this member is in a position to make a success of the livestock project. This inquiry includes the pasture available, necessary fences and shelter, the feed on hand or to be grown, and the boy's past record as a 4-H Club member.

Obtaining a loan from this revolving fund is considered a privilege to which a member is not entitled until he has successfully completed a 4-H Club project, usually growing a crop. Carrying on a year's 4-H Club work in Pasco County includes participation in the regular meetings of the club and its other activities, as well as turning in a completed record book on the member's project. To be eligible for a loan, the member must also be able to pay from his own funds at least one-fifth of the cost of his animal. The amount loaned to each member is limited to \$25 for a calf, \$15 for a gilt, and \$10 for poultry.

## *Investigating the Young Borrower*

The investigation made of the member includes his ability to repay the loan. As a dairy calf will not bring income with which to repay the debt for 2 or 3 years, members who obtain loans for this purpose must submit a plan of repayment from other sources. In a number of instances the plan worked out has provided for small monthly payments from money earned by the member for doing chores in addition to those that have been regularly assigned to him. As a result of this, the loan from the production credit association was fully paid off some time before it became due, and more recent loans had a similar history.

The 4-H council has invested \$200 of the

\$500 revolving fund in purebred gilts, sows, and boars which are used by the club members. Instead of lending a member cash with which to purchase a purebred pig, a brood sow is lent. He feeds and cares for her during the gestation, farrowing, and suckling periods. When the pigs are 2 months old, the member returns the sow and one pig if he raised four or fewer and two pigs if he raised more than four. The pigs returned are sold, the money is added to the amount of the loan fund, and the sow is bred and loaned to another member. Sometimes this plan is varied by turning over two gilt pigs to a boy to raise until breeding age, at which time he returns one to the organization. The member has the choice of three breeds, Duroc, Poland China, and Hampshire. One or more purebred breeders in the county are supporting the work by exchanging young gilts for the sows when they become too old. The fund now owns nine sows, two gilts, and two boars.

Only three boys during these 5 years have failed to repay their loans. All these defaults occurred last year, and on one there is still an expectation of payment. It is interesting to note that two of these three loans were questioned by the boys' committee and considered risky.

Through a strong 4-H Club organization of 460 members, Mr. McClellan is leading many farmers to make the adjustments needed in Pasco County's agriculture. This is particularly true for the introduction of high-quality livestock to improve the living standards of farm people. He has found credit for 4-H Club members a great help in promoting this development. The credit has been provided the members in a way that teaches them to make sound use of borrowed money. As a result of their success in this program, all credit agencies serving the county are now eager to make the loans to the boys.

The loan granted in 1936 to the Pasco County 4-H Club members through Mr. McClellan was one of 388 such loans made to groups of boys in the United States that year by production credit associations. The number of boys in the United States borrowing money from production credit associations through these group loans grew from 3,406 that year to 8,392 in 1939, and the total amount borrowed increased from \$260,000 to \$584,000. Such a group loan, if it is on a sound basis, can usually be arranged with the production credit association serving the area. The adult leader of the boys presents the plan for the undertaking to the secretary of the association, acts as trustee for the loan, and supervises the boys in carrying through the productive enterprises financed.

# Oklahoma Farmers Dig Profits From Silos

With one idea in mind—that of feed conservation—Oklahoma farmers are striving to put away in safekeeping a 2-year feed supply to be prepared for the fickleness of nature with its intermittent seasons of "feast and famine."

"Approximately 20 million dollars has been added to the wealth of cattlemen in the 77 counties of Oklahoma through the construction of silos," said John W. Boehr, extension dairy specialist, in estimating the value of the silo campaign which had been carried on by the Extension Service in that State. One farmer in the Panhandle area who had several silos filled, reported that his herd averaged 400 pounds of butterfat last November in spite of the lack of pasture for 3 months previous.

problems. The Farm Security officials gave their whole-hearted support. With the aid of a State map, a schedule was arranged so the teams could go out into the farming districts in June and July. Extensive publicity through the Extension Service, the Board of Agriculture, and local advertisements boosted the work. After all was definitely set up and mapped out, announcements were published in the newspapers. Nothing was left undone to advertise the meetings to the best advantage. Conferences were held every week to check on the progress of the silo campaign. The trench has come into more general use because it is simpler and more economical to construct and can be filled more easily. It is the kind of feed storage bin that most farm-

chickens. They all improved in condition and in production, and when all the silage was fed out, Mr. Rollete wished he had constructed a larger silo. Eight fellow members of his tribe made a very careful study of his silo and are now digging similar ones. The Indian agent is a very close cooperator with the Extension Service. Under his supervision, with the assistance of County Agent James Lawrence, who is carrying on a very successful silo campaign in Pottawatomie County, this work is going forward.

## Better Tennessee Homes

Again this year Tennessee, because of its outstanding better home program, has received a special merit award from Better Homes in America Organizations, states Lilian L. Keller, Tennessee extension home improvement specialist and State better homes chairman. This is the eighth consecutive year, in which Tennessee has won special recognition. The program was made possible through the organized effort of 58 home demonstration agents and some 1,200 volunteer better homes chairmen, Miss Keller says.

A total of 63,573 Tennessee homes reported improvements during the 1939-40 better homes campaign. This represents an increase of nearly 3,000 in the number making improvements over the previous year. Improvements reported include 31,544 bedrooms improved, 9,203 beds made or refinished, 21,199 families grew 37,647 new vegetables in their gardens, 21,290 lawns were improved with grass, 21,667 trees and 37,116 shrubs were set out, 11,683 walks, 10,243 drives and 17,311 gates were repaired or improved, 19,028 homes added screens to windows, and 12,089 mail boxes improved.

Home demonstration agents have used the impetus of the better homes campaign to further their efforts for home improvement and yard beautification to good effect. Knox County has done particularly good work in improving rural homes, as shown by the fact that for the fourth consecutive year the highest merit award has come to the county. Under the leadership of the agents, enthusiasm for home improvement gathers momentum.

The good results obtained in Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Marshall, Sullivan, and Washington Counties brought high merit awards.

About 8,000 farm tenant families in Tennessee have written leases for from 1 to 5 years, according to reports of the Farm Security Administration office at Nashville.

None of these families had a written lease before they made loans from FSA for the purchase of livestock, work stock, tools, seed, or fertilizer.



Thirty-five farmers attended a trench silo school in Love County where a recently constructed silo was filled to capacity with 375 tons of redtop cane.

For a number of years the Oklahoma Extension Service has emphasized the importance of storing feed in silos to be ready for lean years. This year, special emphasis was put on the subject with an intensive silo drive administered jointly by the extension dairyman, agricultural engineers, and the livestock specialist, together with the county agents. The program was carried out largely by demonstrations and tours planned in conjunction with educational meetings and silo schools, and publicity through newspapers, posters, and other printed matter, and radio. More than 4,000 people attended the 112 trench-silo schools conducted, and some 1,700 attended the 45 trench-silo demonstrations.

The drive was carried on in various counties by teams composed of the county agent, a livestock or crop man well informed concerning the feeding practices, and an agricultural engineer to discuss construction

ers can construct and use without much cash outlay.

From Pottawatomie County comes the silo story of Luther Rollete, a farmer of the Shawnee Indian Tribe, who built a trench silo last year. He had some cowpeas and a lot of Johnson grass. To save all of it the Indian Agency helped him to obtain some blackstrap molasses which he put into the silo with the cowpeas and Johnson grass. Late in the fall he examined the silage and thought it was not good feed. However, when he was out of feed in the wintertime, he noticed the hogs were finding some feed by rooting into the silo. The other Indian farmers noticed the hogs were in much better condition than theirs. By that time Mr. Rollete had abandoned the feeding of the silage, thinking it had spoiled, but when the pigs looked so well he thought the feed might be satisfactory for his cows, mules, and

# Adjusting To Meet Defense Goal

R. M. EVANS, Administrator, Agricultural Adjustment Administration

American agriculture today is better prepared for national defense than any other industry or economic group in the country. Stored in agriculture's Ever-Normal Granary and in a soil enriched by conservation practices, are reserves of foods and fibers sufficient for any national emergency.

Even more important to national defense, is agriculture's preparation for adjustment to change—its ability to react quickly, efficiently, and inexpensively for the Nation, to such world conditions as tumbling foreign markets, dictatorially controlled consumption abroad, and if the last extremity should be forced on America, the needs for physical defense of American liberties and standards of living.

Agriculture's total defense preparations, its stores of supplies in warehouses and the soil, its mechanics for adjustment to change, have been achieved at bargains to the Nation—at less than 85 percent of "parity," or of comparable returns to labor and industry.

Further, these preparations have been made completely in keeping with democratic traditions and methods. More than 133,000 farmer committeemen, elected in communities and counties from Maine to California from their more than 6 million fellow farmers, have formulated policies and carried out the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Cooperating closely with the AAA have been educational agencies such as the Extension Service, and many local and national agricultural organizations, as well as all the other action and educational divisions of the Department of Agriculture.

The dictator countries have achieved the agricultural adjustments to their particular national ideology. But these adjustments have been made by regimenting their farm people on the land and directing them by decree.

This is a price for agricultural preparedness and adjustment that the American farm people will never pay. But our farmers, and the whole Nation are ready to pay for preparation of our democracy that entails democratic costs.

No one group of our economy—agriculture, labor, or industry—must be called on to pay an unfair share of these democratic costs. Also no single group within agriculture, industry, or labor should suffer unfairly because of loss of foreign markets, defense needs, or any emergency condition.

The insurance of equity for all industries and groups within these industries requires that the formulation of any national plan of adjustment consider the needs of all the Nation, and the democratic rights of all the people.

Most of us realize today, more than ever before, that every generation of Americans

must pay the cost of their own freedom and liberty. Once Americans paid this cost by clearing the wilderness; by crossing the continent in spite of innumerable obstacles; by digging the ditches, and building the farms and skyscrapers and cities that our generation has inherited.

Perhaps the hardest costs for American people to bear today—those which may test whether or not we are going to survive as a democratic nation—are going to be those which involve sharing our fields or business, or curtailing by ourselves economic advantages we have possessed.

If America as a Nation is to set up a system of total defense against the threat of total

war, it will be necessary to be sure that all of our people are able to make their full contribution to the common cause. And it will be equally necessary to be sure none is required to carry an unfair share of the burden.

The materials of war and defense today include cotton and wheat and many other agricultural products just as surely as guns and airplanes and tanks. They include labor and youth and every kind and class of our people.

Even more important, total defense today not only requires that we shall have enough cotton and wheat and labor and young men and women for any emergency; it also demands that those who grow cotton, who raise wheat, who labor in the Nation's factories, that all the people of our country know that American democracy belongs to them—and is worth fighting for.

This is the democratic defense goal which all adjustment and conservation in our national farm program must aim at and achieve.

## 4-H Club Round-Up in Alaska

About 150 Alaskan 4-H Club members met at the college in Fairbanks for their annual round-up in July. This number included is about one-half of all enrolled members in Alaska; and they came from Matanuska, Anchorage, and Seward. Southeast Alaska, which is too far away for the young folks to make the trip was the only section not represented. The children of the Matanuska Valley settlers have the largest clubs and sent the largest delegation. Nearly 100 young folks came the 400 miles on the Alaskan Railroad to attend the round-up.

About 25 of the delegates were Indian and Eskimo children with 1 very efficient Indian woman leader attending. From Seward about 30 local leaders accompanied their members to Fairbanks. W. A. Lloyd of the Federal Service, who attended the round-up, reported very satisfactory progress in Alaskan 4-H Clubs with the percentage of completions somewhat higher than in the States and the work on a par in every way with the work done in other parts of the country. A special feature was the presentation of a certificate to Mrs. Peter Grandison of Fairbanks, the first 4-H Club leader appointed in Alaska in 1930 by Mr. Lloyd and a successful leader over the 10-year period.

"Alaska generally has the flavor of almost boom times," said Mr. Lloyd. The development of air bases at Sitka, Anchorage, Kodiak, and Fairbanks has brought in many new people. Agricultural development in Alaska is small; but the towns where most of the people live need the service of a home demonstration agent, and the young people need 4-H Clubs and receive them with enthusiasm. Both of these activities can be considerably increased.

A recent reorganization of the extension

staff provides for an intensification of the work, with each 4-H and home demonstration club visited six to nine times a year instead of two or three times as formerly.

This has been done by not filling the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Ethel MacDonald but dividing the home demonstration work among four district agents, Mrs. Florence Syverud to continue in Juneau, Hazel Zimmerman to work out from Anchorage and to serve also as nutrition and 4-H Club specialist for the Territory, and Mrs. Lydia Von Hanson, the first territorial home demonstration leader to return and work as district home demonstration agent from Fairbanks, also as home industries specialist. Miss Anderson will serve the Matanuska Valley as district home demonstration agent, and the county agricultural agent, H. F. Estelle, will also continue in the Valley. Director Oldroyd believes that the Extension Service in Alaska is now ready to serve the people better than ever.

## Homemakers Like To Sing

One of the newer home demonstration developments which is being accorded enthusiastic interest in 19 counties is that of rural homemakers' chorus groups. At State fair this year, chorus groups from 15 counties will give 15- to 20-minute concerts in the women's building each morning and afternoon. Choruses from Licking, Greene, and Crawford Counties have recently broadcast on the Farm Night Program. A series of four training conferences, primarily for leaders of these choruses, was given during the spring and summer by Prof. Joseph A. Leeder of the music department at Ohio State University.

# Soil Conservation Districts—A Defense Tool

H. H. BENNETT, Chief, Soil Conservation Service

■ War rages over a large part of the world, with democracy weighing in the balance. In America our attention is drawn to preparation for defense. Agriculture, as always, will play a major part in the total defense program.

Meeting emergencies is not a new experience for American farmers. Too often in the past they have had to meet emergencies blindly, without adequate plans for the future. But today agriculture is better than ever before.

For the last 8 years, the farmers of this country have been building and strengthening our agricultural structure. They have been doing things that otherwise we should only now be starting out to do as measures of defense. None of us foresaw the present world crisis 8 years ago, of course—at least not clearly enough to direct our energies precisely toward meeting it. But the fact remains that the farm programs of the last 8 years have placed American agriculture in a position to meet almost any situation that might arise.

## *Plan Must Be Flexible*

The past decade has made it abundantly clear that a permanent agricultural plan must be flexible in order to meet shifting emergencies. We must be able to expand or contract production to meet the exigencies of the situation; and plans for the mobilization of American agriculture will not be complete without proper safeguards for the protection of the soil.

In planning for agriculture's part in national defense, the soil conservation district assumes great importance. What is the future of this movement? Why is it gaining such force and momentum? Where is it headed?

My confidence in the future of the soil conservation district identifies itself with my confidence in the farmer himself. For it is the farmer who is the final appraiser of the district idea, who shapes the idea to his needs, who makes it operative with his vote, and who directs the work of the district day by day and season by season.

One immediately worth-while dividend from a soil conservation district is the closer partnership it creates among landowners, land operators, and agricultural workers. The district is a carefully designed mechanism of interesting potentialities. It makes possible a unity of action, simplifies and clarifies cooperative efforts, provides a point of focus, and an instrument for maintenance of protective practices and installations.

Within the philosophy and the program of the district there are important assignments for the county agent, for the land use plan-

ner, for the rural sociologist and economist, for the conservationist, biologist, agronomist, and a wide range of State and Federal and college technicians who in the past have labored under a somewhat looser bond to improve the farm situation.

It seems to me that next to the man on the land, perhaps the prime beneficiary of the district set-up is the county agent. Any philosophy, any program of action, which is so close to the cloths as that embodied in the soil conservation district must necessarily affect the daily thinking and the modus operandi of the county agent.

The district idea is not the progeny of any single mind or of any single set of minds; it is a result of a train of circumstances and consequences tracing back to the first swing of the ax of exploitation on this continent. The idea—like many ideas—was the simple, obvious one of assembling its several parts in their proper relationships. When that was done, the district became, figuratively, a wheel ready to roll. The hub was the farmer; the spokes included the representatives of the land-grant colleges, the Extension Services, the Farm Security Administration, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the State agencies, the local press and civic workers, and school officials. Clearly, the utility of the wheel is dependent equally on each of its spokes.

On September 1, 1940, enabling legislation for the establishment of soil conservation districts had been adopted by 38 States. The general framework of soil conservation districts, their financing and manner of operation, are easy to understand. Any involved explanation here probably would divert us from the theme of this article and could not possibly allow for the numerous deviations in detail arising from varied local situations.

Of importance, however, is the fact that on September 1 there were 248 soil conservation districts in 28 States, for which memoranda of understanding with the Department of Agriculture had been developed. To date, 375 legally established soil conservation districts include a total acreage of approximately 233,000,000. These figures indicate the beginning that has been made and hint at the dimensions of the job ahead.

Research, education, and cooperation are three prerequisites to the success of a district. To start with, there must be a fund of technical knowledge on which districts may draw. Then, farmers must be convinced that they may put this information to practical use on their lands. Finally, there must develop among farmers and others of the community, common conceptions, common understandings, and common action programs.

In laboratories—State, Federal, and private—test-tube and measurement processes have been applied to soils, to plants, to rainfall, and to slopes for many years. A vast wealth of data on crop behavior under varying conditions has been accumulated. Whatever the sponsorship, the scientific observations that have been recorded by experiment stations, by foundations, and by others, add up to a valuable capital reserve, afford a solid basis for the new agricultural program. And in recent years the special problems of soil conservation have had the focus of the cooperative research projects of the Soil Conservation Service and the State experiment stations.

Extension workers throughout the country have used demonstration projects as the textbook for teaching soil conservation. They have brought groups of farmers to demonstration areas for the purpose of studying conservation measures and practices under actual farm conditions. As an added step in this great educational program, extension soil conservationists have been the guiding hands behind Soil Conservation Service technicians in planning and carrying out conservation programs on widely scattered demonstration farms. Nowhere has the effectiveness of the educational programs of the county agents, extension soil conservationists, and other State extension workers, been more clearly demonstrated than in the organization and operation of soil conservation districts. As a result, there has been everywhere a marked spread of conservation practices.

## *Education Must Follow Planning*

In many States now the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service have caught the full cooperative spirit of the district idea. They realize not only the initial opportunity afforded by the soil conservation districts but have discovered and put into effect a tangible plan for the educational follow-up which is so essential to the success of any broad agricultural program.

We could cite example after example to illustrate district cooperation at its best. Functions are defined, responsibilities assigned, but the human element—the will on the part of all participants to make the plan work and keep it working—is what especially commands the respect of the community for the district at its door.

I have faith in the flexibility of soil conservation districts. Reports from all over the country indicate that the idea readily adapts itself to a wide variety of conditions. It will be interesting to watch the districts perform—and grow, as they serve—under the quickening tempo of a trying period.

# Special AAA Program Gets Results

■ Wind erosion and moisture conservation, the two big problems that limit agriculture on the fertile plains of western Kansas, are being solved in an organized way by the farmers in 10 southwest Kansas counties through a special AAA program requiring cooperators to earn all payments by carrying out soil-building practices.

In 1939 alone nearly 1,200 fallow-for-wheat demonstrations and 321 depth-of-moisture demonstrations were established on farms in the 46 western Kansas counties where this project was carried on. More than 17,000 farmers were influenced to plant their wheat with soil moisture as a gage. Production of sorghums for protecting the soil against blowing likewise was emphasized with good results.

Volunteer committees of farmers in each county took the lead in planning the extension program, obtaining cooperators to plant demonstration fields, and getting out crowds for the winter meetings and summer field days and tours. Their energetic activity put across to the general public an understanding of the need for widespread adoption of a few basic practices to stabilize and protect the area.

When AAA authorities agreed to permit counties in this region to vote on the special AAA program which would place additional emphasis on the practices which had been successfully demonstrated, county agents arranged community meetings of farmers to

discuss the proposal. Mr. Compton toured the area with a representative of the State AAA office and explained his views as based on results secured at experiment stations and in extension demonstrations. Since the special AAA program has gone into effect, it has literally become a part of the extension agronomy program. The successful practices and the AAA provisions pertaining to them are taught together.

The striking results obtained are an outgrowth of Extension work in agronomy conducted in the southwestern Kansas counties for 5 years under the leadership of L. L. Compton. Keystones of Compton's program throughout the drought years have been promotion of practices for wind-erosion control, use of depth-of-moisture tests as a guide in planting wheat, and use of protected summer fallow as a means of storing moisture for production of both wheat and feed crops. Demonstrations conducted in this area year after year have shown the futility of seeding wheat in dry soil and the efficacy of summer fallow as a moisture-storing method.

A summary of reports from seven of the special program counties shows that 471,213 acres are being protected from blowing by leaving a cover of stubble at least 6 inches high on the land until next spring, and another 131,220 acres are being protected by strip cropping. Strip cropping is the practice

that has proved so successful in Greeley County, Kans. It consists of strips 5 to 20 rods wide of close-grown or intertilled sorghums protecting strips of fallow of about the same width. These strips running at right angles to the prevailing winds are an effective way of preventing wind erosion on the summer fallow.

Another popular practice among the seven counties reporting is the protection of summer fallow by the proper tillage methods. This includes contour listing, basin furrowing, pit cultivation, and the incorporating of stubble and straw into the surface soil, and was carried out on 348,855 acres. Such protected summer fallow is kept in ideal condition to catch and to hold moisture. Because of the rough surface maintained by these tillage operations, this fallow ground is also resistant to wind erosion.

## *Stubble to Hold Soil*

In these same counties, 669,968 acres are being protected by a cover of sorghum crops either drilled or planted in rows not to exceed 44 inches in width. These sorghums will be harvested so that a high stubble will be left on the ground to keep the soil from blowing during the winter and spring.

It is not only a program of soil conservation that these 10 southwest Kansas counties are carrying out but also one that will lead to a more stabilized income because of the feed crops and livestock that are being produced. The fact that this program has been carried out over a large area has made it much more effective in controlling wind erosion. Organized as a group under the AAA farm program, the farmers of southwest Kansas are controlling the wind, a job that would be impossible for them to accomplish as individuals. With the wind harnessed, it is possible to use summer fallow to store up the moisture that makes productive the fertile soil of this region.

■ Greene County, N. C., farmers will plant 80 times more Austrian winter peas this fall than they did last year, reports A. J. Harrell, county agent. Already 40,000 pounds of seed have been ordered under the Triple-A grant-of-aid program, enough to spread a green blanket this winter over 1,200 acres. Last fall only 15 acres were seeded to this winter cover crop.

■ School lunchrooms were operated in 62 Georgia counties last year. County home demonstration agents acted in a supervisory capacity in most instances. In many counties, vegetables were grown in community gardens, canned, and served in connection with this project.

A Kansas farmer takes a look at the rank growth of Sudan grass on a 160-acre field that last year was a blow problem. He is pasturing 250 head of cattle on part of his 600 acres of Sudan grass. The rest of the Sudan grass will furnish winter feed.



# W. A. Lloyd Retires

DR. C. B. SMITH

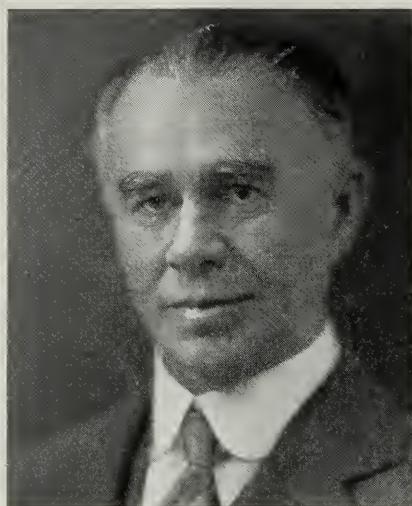
■ William Allison Lloyd, pioneer in agricultural extension and widely known throughout the United States and Canada, retired from the Federal Extension Service September 30. For 36 years Mr. Lloyd has been engaged in extension work. From 1904 to 1913 he did extension work in agriculture in Ohio as an employee of the State experiment station. The remaining 27 years, he was a part of the Federal Agricultural Extension Service, with headquarters in Washington, D. C. Probably no man now living has had a larger part in shaping the agricultural extension work of the United States than has W. A. Lloyd. This is particularly true of adult agricultural extension work in the Northern and Western States.

In his association with the Federal Extension Service, Mr. Lloyd has visited and advised with the extension forces of practically every State in the Union, served as dean of the Agricultural Extension Service of Hawaii for a year, and helped to set up and guide the Extension Service in Alaska. He was the Federal officer in charge of the development of county agricultural agent work in all the Northern and Western States from 1914 to 1923 and was the Federal agent in charge of all extension work in the Western States from 1923 practically to the date of his retirement.

In between his extension activities, Mr. Lloyd has traveled widely in New Zealand, South America, Mexico, Canada, portions of Europe, Samoa, and the Philippines, and in other parts of the world.

When the final life history of Mr. Lloyd is written, it is probable that greatest emphasis will be placed on his influence in molding the organization and developing the extension program and ideals of the early county farm bureaus of the Northern and Western States. His influence will also be noted in the formulation of State laws which permitted financial aid in cooperation with the States and the Federal Government in developing county farm bureaus. It was Mr. Lloyd's genius, too, that conceived and put in tangible form and carried through to a successful conclusion the honorary extension fraternity of Epsilon Sigma Phi, with its present membership of more than 3,000. Mr. Lloyd served as the first grand director of the fraternity for 10 years and was awarded the distinguished service ruby of the organization in 1933.

Stress will also be given to Mr. Lloyd's insistence on ascertained local and State facts and the correlation of these facts with the technical knowledge of the experiment stations and scientists as a basis for community, county, State, and regional extension programs.



W. A. Lloyd has taken a leading part in the development of Extension activities for the past 36 years.

Mr. Lloyd's farm management work, in both Ohio and the Federal Department of Agriculture, 1904-09, led him, throughout all his extension activities, to appreciate the farmer's own contribution to the analysis of local conditions in any rural area, the deciding upon plans to meet these conditions, and the value of the democratic way in all extension procedure.

To Mr. Lloyd, also, goes the credit of bringing representatives of the Western States together with Federal representatives and of working out regional extension programs covering such subjects as a range-livestock program, nutrition program, dairy program, crop program, and a home- and farm-management program on a regional basis.

Mr. Lloyd has written many extension reports and presented many extension papers, now in the Federal Department of Agriculture library at Washington and elsewhere, on the various phases of the organization, method of conducting, and the philosophy and results of extension work. These reports and papers are outstanding examples of clear, realistic writing. There was never any doubt where Mr. Lloyd stood on any proposition. He made his positions clear and defended them with an ability that commanded respect.

In 1932, Mr. Lloyd made a study of the agriculture of Samoa and New Zealand.

In 1937, Mr. Lloyd was appointed by President Roosevelt and President Quezon as agricultural adviser to the Joint Preparatory Commission on Philippine Affairs, to examine into the economic consequences of independence for the Philippines. In all, 36 of the 48 Philippine provinces were visited. Mr. Lloyd made recommendations regarding adminis-

trative, statistical, research, and extension development needed to meet the problems of adjustment in that country.

He also made a study in 1940 of adult education in the South American countries of Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil.

At various times, Mr. Lloyd has made comprehensive studies and presentation of the older-rural-youth problem, the situation and need of suitable Federal and State retirement privileges, and the organization and place of 4-H Club work in the extension system. He was a forceful speaker and always made a contribution to whatever subject in which he interested himself. Few men of the pioneer days had the background of experience or were better prepared to undertake agricultural extension work than Mr. Lloyd. He had knowledge, aggression, organizing ability, imagination, and ideals. He has won a permanent place for himself in agricultural extension history.

Mr. Lloyd graduated from the National Northern University of Lebanon, Ohio, with a B. S. degree in 1890 and from Texas University with an L. S. B. degree in 1893. At various times he has been a practicing lawyer in Texas and Ohio and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1940. He has been an editor, farmer, postmaster, and research worker; he wrote a comprehensive agricultural history of Ohio and is the author of one of the earliest and most comprehensive bulletins on sweetclover ever written in the United States.

Mr. Lloyd was born at Sparta, Ohio, in 1870. In 1896, he married Miss Minnie Lee Rutherford of Blanco, Meigs County, Ohio. The Lloyds have one daughter, Mrs. Leonila Marie Biggins. They live at present in the Sedgewick, 1722 Nineteenth Street NW, Washington, D. C.

The best wishes of the Extension Service go with Mr. Lloyd.

## Pastors' Short Course

Interest and attendance have increased each year in the short course for town and country pastors which is given annually the third week in June at the Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture. Ninety-two persons were in attendance at the sessions this year, a wide-awake, inter-denominational group, interested in becoming more familiar with rural, social, and economic trends.

■ Questionnaires asking farm agents to report on the sources of surplus seed located 205,567 bushels of small-grain seed and 52,000 pounds of winter-legume seed to meet the demands of farmers in drought- and flood-stricken areas of North Carolina. A copy of the list of counties having surplus seed was placed in the hands of every county agent in the State, reports E. C. Blair, extension agronomist.

# Factors Contributing to 4-H Success

LEON O. CLAYTON, Assistant State Club Agent, South Carolina

■ 4-H Club work is being carried on most successfully where four factors of equal importance are working together. These factors are: (1) the county extension agent, (2) the local 4-H Club leader, (3) the parents of the member, and (4) the 4-H Club member.

Let us picture 4-H Club work as a table with the four legs of the table representing the four factors which are contributing to successful 4-H Club work. Each of the four legs (factors) has to be placed squarely and firmly under the table (4-H Club work). When any one of these legs becomes weakened or fails to do its part, naturally the table cannot stand erect and perform its task of developing more useful citizens from boys and girls who join the 4-H Club ranks.

## *Agent Is First Factor*

The county extension agent, the first leg, has the responsibility of coordinating the youth program for the whole county. Besides being responsible for the county 4-H organization, of which each community club and every 4-H member are vital parts, the agent is responsible for subject-matter training.

The county 4-H organization begins with a county 4-H Club council, composed of local 4-H leaders and community 4-H Club officers. This council has its officers or county council 4-H executive committee. The council has representation on the county extension program planning committee, thus coordinating the youth and adult extension programs. Therefore, the county extension agents within a county through their county 4-H council will be in the best position to expand their leadership in the broad educational development of boys and girls, emphasizing better agriculture, homemaking, and rural life.

An extension agent who attempts to conduct 4-H work without an organization of local leaders and 4-H officers fails to plan and carry out the most effective program among the youth of his county. The first county 4-H camp that I assisted with as an agent was planned thoroughly with the other agents, leaders, and club officers of the county before camp time. With other such counseling, the camp attendance and program proved successful. All the 1939 blue and red ribbon groups of county 4-H council programs in our State were planned and carried out through county councils—agents, leaders, and officers planning and working together.

More specifically, what are other responsibilities of the extension agent in the 4-H program?

First: To see that every club functions

properly with necessary leaders and officers. This is being accomplished in our State most successfully where the agents definitely tie in the 4-H and adult programs in each community. Of course, the program of each community fits in with the county program, but most important of all it is based on the interest of the youth and the needs of the community and local farms and homes.

Then it is important to see that every interested boy and girl in the county is given an opportunity to be an active 4-H member. The agents' efforts are multiplied many times where they work through county councils, local leaders, and community 4-H officers and committees. Work with individual 4-H members is needed, but the extension service program must change with the times; and leaders, officers, and committees can and will cooperate and expand 4-H influences.

The agent must also see that every 4-H member conducts a demonstration and keeps a complete record, always using the latest methods and best practices. Subject-matter training must be given those who are enrolled as members. All local leaders and club officers must be trained, morale must be maintained, and satisfaction provided.

Active contact must also be maintained with State and National 4-H policies and programs.

The extension agent does this through leader and officer training meetings, county and community program planning, farm and home visits, correspondence, bulletins, local club meetings and tours, county meetings, publicity, motion pictures, exhibits, and greatest of all through active local club leaders, committees, and club officers with 4-H parent cooperation.

## *Local Leader Is All-Important Person*

The local 4-H Club leader—the second leg—is the all-important person. The club leader is that big-hearted, likeable person in the community who gives freely of his or her time to broadly developing the community through working with the 4-H Club boys and girls. The 4-H leader lives a life of service.

Too often agents say that they cannot find leaders. In three South Carolina counties where local leaders had not been found for all clubs, the agents worked through community 4-H sponsoring committees in 1940 to obtain leaders, and now every club in the three counties has an interested and active leader. These committees consisted generally of a representative 4-H member, a 4-H parent, a community extension program planning member, a teacher, and the agent.

The effective leader of a 4-H Club is always on the alert to use those persons (old and

young) in the community who can perform certain leadership functions to further the 4-H program activities. Such local leaders are always conscious of the development of leadership qualities among their 4-H members.

As outlined by 114 leaders of 4-H Clubs in a South Carolina study, local leaders contribute to the success of 4-H Club work in organizing or reorganizing the club and obtaining new members. They assist in community 4-H program planning. They arrange details of regular club meetings. They supervise demonstration captains who assist the 4-H members with their farm and home work and in keeping and completing their demonstration records. They supervise the planning and conducting of local 4-H events such as community 4-H achievement days, social activities, and tours. They supervise in making local arrangements, attend and are responsible for their club members at county, district, and State 4-H events. They help with individual member problems by making local 4-H farm and home visits. They assist in evaluating 4-H accomplishments at the end of each year.

The parents of 4-H members make up the third leg of the 4-H table. The parents may cooperate and encourage the 4-H member in his activities. They can talk and foster 4-H Club work, perhaps helping other parents to develop a favorable attitude toward the work. Through these parent-efforts, young people develop more rapidly into useful citizens. The fullest accomplishments of 4-H members come as a result of having the full support of the parents.

Extension agents may further increase 4-H parent interest by staging community 4-H rallies or picture shows when all 4-H parents and friends are invited. Special 4-H souvenir leaflets for parents, personal letters to parents or the sending of bulletins or special materials have been effective methods. Inviting parents to attend or to appear on the program at a regular 4-H Club meeting, or asking them to serve on a committee or sponsor a committee of 4-H Club members serves to maintain interest. Our 4-H program in South Carolina is being developed on the basis of these principles.

The 4-H Club member makes up the fourth leg and the end product. He has the responsibility of being vitally interested in 4-H Club work and its possibilities. Here work and play, teaching and learning, are all combined to give youth the best in 4-H Club work.

With the four legs doing their part (the county agent, the local leader, the parents, and the 4-H member), the 4-H Club table should become even stronger and effectively serve a greater part of our rural population.

# Hawaiian Farmers Work on Rats

Coffee was at one time the only crop raised on a commercial scale in Kona, Hawaii. Economic circumstances and rats, the scourge of the Kona coast, brought about the change.

It has been estimated that there are as many rats in continental United States as there are people. In Kona 10 years ago there were twice as many rats as inhabitants!

Kona, on the west side of the island of Hawaii, is one of the most picturesque regions in the Territory. The climate is cool and mild, the people are happy, and the entire region has a mohapi atmosphere (The Spanish call it *mañana*).

Trouble arrived in the form of an ever-increasing rat population. In 1929, Baron Goto, at that time county agent for west Hawaii, estimated that the rodents did more than \$100,000 damage to the coffee industry each year by climbing the trees, eating the tender young shoots, and knocking the half ripe cherries to the ground.

In that year extension work started in Kona, and Mr. Goto realized that the rats must be checked. He organized a 1-month campaign that bagged 2,956 rats. Although the total was small, it showed the coffee growers what work lay ahead of them.

Since 1929 there has been a continuous effort with year-round campaigns to cut down the rat population. During this time the Territorial Legislature voted funds to aid the undertaking; in 1936 the Agricultural Adjustment Administration set aside \$4,000 for the work; and in recent years private subscription

plus an assessment of 20 cents per acre of coffee was levied. This work has been successful. During the fiscal year 1939 more than 80,000 rats were trapped. No one has been able to estimate the number that were poisoned. Last year only 30,000 rats were caught. This drop does not mean that control work slackened, because it did not, but that the number of rats in west Hawaii is finally decreasing.

Probably the school children of Kona have taken the greatest interest in the eradication program because they received a bounty of 1 cent per tail. The children brought the tails to school and were paid there. They generally brought the whole rat along!

## Diversification Solves Problem

Along with rat trouble, Kona suffered like the rest of the world from economic depression. In 1933 the price of parchment coffee dropped from \$4 to \$1 per 100-pound sack, and since that time the price has risen very slowly. Because of the price drop, diversification finally came to Kona. Today, it is the second most important tomato-growing district in Hawaii. Kona farmers are now shipping many farm products to market in Honolulu.

The Kona coast furnishes tomatoes, avocados, cooking bananas, macadamia nuts, mangoes, sweetpotatoes, upland taro, watermelons, poultry, honey, cattle, and approximately 85,000 sacks of parchment coffee per year.

Nevertheless, the main problem in west Hawaii has been and is rats. Through the active help of the Hawaii Agricultural Extension Service in the person of Earl Nishimura, county agent, this problem seems to be conquered. Farmers realize that they can never stop the campaign against rodents; but for the present, at least, all the coffee "cherries" are either on the tree or in the sack.

## School Forest Plantings

Michigan boys and girls attending the Kalkaska and Frederic High Schools have taken a new interest in their school forests and for the last 3 years have made yearly plantings under the supervision of L. Wendell Barnes, agricultural agent of Kalkaska and Crawford Counties. In all, 11,500 trees have been added to the Kalkaska School forest and 8,500 trees have been planted in the Frederic School forest. Interest in the somewhat neglected school forests was revived when the teachers and pupils attended tree-planting demonstrations arranged by County Agent Barnes soon after starting work in the two counties. "Not only have the school children done a fine job of planting the trees but they are becoming more enthusiastic about the project as they care for the plantings and watch their growth," reports Mr. Barnes.

## Harvest Festivals

Revival of the old-time harvest festival with a streamlined program was successfully accomplished by people of Sheridan County, Mont., reports R. F. Rasmussen, county extension agent. The first day's program included a parade, horseshoe tournament, trap shooting, baseball game, tug of war, novelty races, concert by the Plentywood High School band, and a street dance. On the second day's program were a speaking program, auction sale, football game, foot races, amateur contest, old-time fiddlers' contest, old-time dances, stock judging contest, and home economics and agricultural exhibits. The harvest festival was a gala 2 days and well worth the effort put into it by the rural people and county agent.

## Bindweed Control

Last year, 14,208 Kansas farmers participated in a State-wide program to eradicate bindweed. Cooperating in a coordinated program with extension workers, county weed supervisors, the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, and the State agricultural college, 7,447 farmers had a total of 50,046 infested acres under cultivation to control the bindweed, and sodium chlorate was used on 6,761 farms. A total of 54,541 acres of weedy land was under control either by cultivation or chemical treatment.



Collecting their bounty of 1 cent for every tail brings smiles to the faces of Kona school children.

# Plantation Gardens

■ Down among the cotton rows on three of the big plantations in St. Francis County, Ark., a system of food production has been worked out which has meant better health for the plantation population, more efficient farming operations, and better relationships between manager and tenants, according to Esther Tennyson, county home demonstration agent. The hub of food-production activities on the three plantations is the large plantation garden, planned and cultivated under the direction of the owner or manager, cared for by the plantation tenants, and shared by all the plantation population.

In her year-round garden campaign, Miss Tennyson has emphasized adequate gardens for every tenant family either in groups or as individual families. Members of the family are taught how to preserve the surplus food supply. Early last spring, circular letters were sent to all the cotton farmers in the county—2,100 farm families made up of owners, part owners, managers, and share-croppers—advising them of the kinds of vegetables best suited to St. Francis County, when to plant the vegetables, and how many, according to the size of the family. Follow-up letters were sent, one giving recommendations for the control of garden insects and a later one with suggestions for planting a fall garden. Supplementing the circular letters were timely garden hints published in the newspapers.

An outstanding plantation-garden system is located on the 1,780-acre Red Gum plantation which has 2 large vegetable plots used for the production of all varieties of vegetables and, in addition, three patches of 3½ acres each in which beans, peas, and turnips are grown. A new gardening feature in

1940 is a sweetpotato bed for the production of slips for the individual gardens maintained by each of the 20 families on the plantation.

There are four vegetable gardens on a 2,600-acre plantation near Heth, which furnishes vegetables for the 16 tenant families. The principal vegetables produced in the 4 gardens are tomatoes, bunch Lima and pole beans, onions, peas, cabbage, okra, and potatoes. The tenants cultivate the gardens and share the vegetables. In addition, 15 of the tenant families maintain gardens on the farmstead they operate.

The Lake Side plantation has provided several garden plots ranging in size from 1½ to 2½ acres to produce vegetables for the 42 tenant families and the day laborers who operate the 3,700-acre plantation. In the plantation gardens, all varieties of vegetables are grown, the favorites being tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, beans, onions, peas, and okra. The favorite dish on the Lake Side plantation is Mulligan stew, requested almost every day by the workers, Miss Tennyson says. All of the 42 families also have individual garden plots.

In the spring, the plantation owners report, every tenant gets the urge to plant a garden. Few of them, however, keep the garden in continuous production the year around; hence the need for the general plantation garden plot. Negro tenants, particularly, get the spring-planting urge; and if they are not given a designated garden plot, the managers are likely to find one located in the middle of their cottonfields. As a result of their experience with plantation gardens, St. Francis County planters thoroughly believe in good gardening as a means of maintaining healthy tenants, says Miss Tennyson.

## Low-Cost Housing for Rural Negroes

■ A forward step in low-cost housing for rural Negroes was taken at Tuskegee Institute in August when Negro extension workers and Tuskegee faculty members met at the call of T. M. Campbell, field agent, to discuss the housing problem. The group formed a permanent organization to promote a Folk College, the first unit of which will be for the training of rural carpenters and builders. Negro men with some knowledge of building will be given definite training in the construction of low-cost homes. The plan will go into operation at the time of the annual Farm and Home Short Course in December.

The first scholarships to the Folk College have been offered by Dr. J. Max Bond, director of the School of Education, Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Bond will provide for the

transportation and maintenance of five rural carpenters who will study carpentry in order to return to their community to assist with the building of low-cost houses.

J. R. Otis, director of the school of agriculture and the farm and home short course, has put the facilities of the recently completed sawmill at the disposal of the committee sponsoring the Folk College project.

Director Otis has offered cooperation with the department of mechanical industries in having cottages for the 4-H Club Camp, now under construction, built according to their plans for various types of low-cost rural dwellings. Thus visiting farm folk will have the experience of living in a well-built house that they can duplicate on their own farms at low cost.

## The Farmers' Part In Defense

(Continued from page 2 of cover)

More than 75 percent of Negro farmers are tenants and croppers living in rented houses which do not measure up to a standard of adequate comfort. The organization plans to develop a program for low-cost housing which will improve this deplorable condition.

Most county agents have the confidence of their own rural people and they know where to get reliable information which can be passed on. If an agent sees the picture clearly himself, he is better able to inform others.

We in the Department of Agriculture are doing our best to get reliable information to agents on national and international conditions just as soon as it is available, but a great deal must be left to the agent.

The agent knows his people, he knows where they are strong and where they are weak—where there is ignorance, where there is prejudice. When the agent and his county leaders tell us what information they need, we will use all of our facilities to back up their efforts.

Perhaps the problem locally is too many people in a depleted physical state; perhaps soil erosion is undermining the fertility of the land and the spirit of the people; perhaps the efficiency of production is too low for a strong nation; perhaps housing is inadequate; perhaps the young people lack opportunity to develop their ability; perhaps there is ignorance and indifference to the gravity of the situation. All of these things militate against a strong nation.

The country is going to need electric power to decentralize industry. Perhaps your county is behind in taking steps to procure electric power.

I know we are already working along all of these lines, but we should proceed with all possible speed. Here is our immediate task in national defense.

If any agent has not yet seen the picture clearly enough to find inspiration for leadership toward building a strong Nation, I hope he will take the time right now to study the situation and understand recent events.

Americans on the farms, in the towns and in the cities all have the common purpose of developing a democratic state in which everyone has opportunity to live his life with as much liberty as is consistent with public welfare. We want to proceed along this path unmolested. Do we want our democratic Nation enough to bind ourselves together into a strong union? It will take work, it will take sacrifice.

It is the privilege, as well as the duty, of those of us in the public employ to look ahead with all the understanding we can muster and to shoulder unflinchingly the leadership laid at our door.

# **Ellwood Douglass, Veteran County Agent, Passes On**

■ Ellwood Douglass, who has served Monmouth County farmers as their agricultural agent for 23 years, died of heart disease at his home at Colts Neck, N. J., September 8 at the age of 50 years.

Oldest New Jersey county agent in point of service and a past president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Mr. Douglass was first stricken with heart trouble 3 years ago. Despite this illness, he continued until recent weeks the work that has contributed substantially to Monmouth's standing as one of the Northeast's leading agricultural counties.

Prof. L. A. Bevan, director of the State extension service, described Mr. Douglass as "one of the Nation's outstanding county agents."

"Ellwood Douglass," he said, "was able to take a broad view of agricultural problems without losing his sense of the practical in aiding the individual farmer. His belief that his responsibilities did not end with production led him to take an active part in successful moves for the improvement of marketing farm products. An able organizer and indefatigable worker, Mr. Douglass was unsparing of himself in his efforts to aid the farmers of his county. With the people of Monmouth, we of the New Jersey Extension Service mourn the passing of an outstanding servant of agriculture."

A native of Cold Spring, Cape May County, Mr. Douglass studied agriculture at Rutgers and Cornell Universities. He joined the New Jersey Extension Service in 1914 as Atlantic County's first agricultural agent, leaving 3 years later to fill the same post in Monmouth County.

Although the agriculture of Monmouth is diversified, Douglass won and held the confidence of the potato growers, poultry farmers, dairymen, and horticulturists. Through his work, farmers were kept informed of improved methods of production, aided in their farm organization activities, and assisted in marketing problems. Mr. Douglass took an active part in the organization of both the Bradley Beach Farmers Market and the Newark Farmers Market; he also has cooperated closely with the Tri-County Auction Market at Hightstown.

More recently in his home county Mr. Douglass played a leading role in assisting and coordinating efforts of State and Federal agencies in applying a comprehensive program for controlling soil erosion.

Honors paid Mr. Douglass include a certificate "for long and distinguished service" from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and a similar tribute from the E. B. Voorhees Agricultural Society.



**Ellwood Douglass.**

Mr. Douglass was a past president of the New Jersey Association of County Agricultural Agents and a member of numerous farm organizations. He also has served as a director of the Monmouth County Organization for Social Service and as a member of the executive committee of the Monmouth-Ocean Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Douglass has made a number of contributions to the Extension Service Review through the years.

## **Second National Handicraft Conference**

A renaissance of native handicraft and arts was seen in the immediate future by the Second National Conference on Handicraft held in Penland, N. C., bringing together for planning and discussion specialists from 23 States. Extension workers from 9 States, as well as representatives from WPA, NYA, FSA, the New Hampshire League of Arts and Crafts, the Southern Highland Guild, and other organizations, took part in the discussion of problems and trends in the development of handicraft skills in the country. Allen Eaton, of the Russell Sage Foundation, well-known authority in the field, took an active part in the discussions.

A permanent organization was established to be called The National Conference on Handicrafts, which will be open to any qualified group. Committees were appointed to prepare tentative plans for the organization.

The last 2 days of the conference were devoted to the problems and experiences of Government agencies commissioned to stimulate handicraft activity, with discussion under the leadership of Mary Agnes Gordon, Mississippi extension marketing specialist. From the extension standpoint, handicrafts are now contributing much in making rural homes more livable and beautiful. As skill is developed, handicraft has often contributed significantly to the farm income. The specialists felt that in this field there is at present time a noteworthy opportunity to contribute to the development of rural life through the extension program in fostering the development of handicraft skills which will enrich the lives of rural people.

## **Cooperative Hunting**

More than 750,000 acres of Michigan farm land will be regulated for hunting this fall under supervision of rural game-management cooperatives operating under the now nationally known Williamston plan.

This is the estimate of R. G. Hill, game management specialist on the extension staff of Michigan State College.

Trespass control is one of the major achievements of the cooperatives. On more than 7,000 farms within the State this fall the trespass headache will be reduced through the plans of the farmers with the assistance of the college and of the State Department of conservation.

General conservation on these farms and greater appreciation by hunters of the farmer's problems are other dividends credited to the cooperative permit hunting system.

Farm members report that entire communities are now aware of the need for bettering wildlife conditions and of reducing game-law violations. Controlled "harvest" of the game crop appears to provide consistently better hunting.

Farmers control operations and regulations of their cooperatives. Assistance from the college consists of explanations of details to groups interested in forming and continuing a cooperative. County agricultural agents are making arrangements for such sessions. Free posting material is obtained from the State department of conservation. Present co-ops vary from 640 acres to more than 10,000 acres, the most successful ranging between 640 and 5,000 acres, according to Mr. Hill.

■ To keep his mailing list up to date, H. H. Barnum, agricultural agent of Ingham County, Mich., obtained the help of rural-school teachers in compiling all sheep growers' names. Later a letter was sent to these men, calling attention, among other things, to the advisability of dipping and drenching the flock. Mention was made of the 20 concrete dipping vats and 3 portable outfits in Ingham County. The farmers interested were invited to come to the extension office for further information.

# Tree Defense Against Nature's Blitzkrieg

The accompanying graph illustrates what was accomplished by Extension Forester F. B. Trenk of Wisconsin for the first 6 years of his campaign to protect the farms of seven counties in the central portion of his State against severe windstorms. It will be noted that the tree planting increased rapidly and shows no sign of decreasing. It indicates the results of concentrating on a particular farm forestry project, and in a few years when the trees have attained a little height, severe storms such as struck this area in May 1934 will be of only casual interest to the farmers. Crops will be protected and there will be little if any movement of soil due to the wind.

Mr. Trenk had laid the groundwork in the

years prior to 1934, so was all set to give the farmers the necessary assistance in establishing a lasting defense against such blitzkriegs of Mother Nature. During the spring of 1940 nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million tree "soldiers" were planted in windbreaks in these seven counties against 400,000 in 1935, a gain of 600 percent. Furthermore, these living windbreaks do more than stand guard to ward off the bad effects of the wind. They act as collectors of snow, thus increasing soil moisture. In addition, they provide protection and food to birds and small game, to say nothing of the beauty they add to the landscape. These trees are lasting monuments to an Extension Service program.

American art has been rising during the past few years. There are strong currents toward an art of native character and native meaning, which shall express with clarity and power the interests, the ideals, and the experience of the American people. It is a significant fact that our people in these times of world emergency are turning more and more to their own cultural resources.

The National Art Week and the program of work which will follow should give extension people a splendid opportunity to get national stimulation in crafts work.

On the invitation of President Roosevelt, Francis Henry Taylor, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York, is the chairman of the National Council for Art Week. M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, is also a member of the National Council.

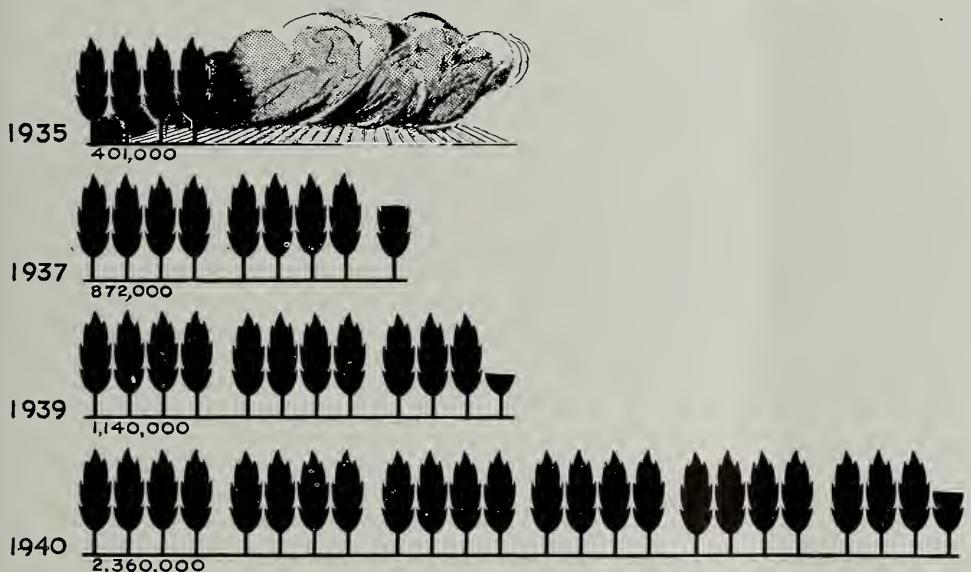
In his letter to Director Taylor, President Roosevelt stated: "In company with many others of my fellow countrymen I have been gratified to observe the rapidly developing interest in American art in recent years, a development in which the Government art programs have played an important part.

"Yet in spite of an ever-increasing interest in art in our country, the majority of our artists and skilled craftsmen are still engaged in what must be called a marginal occupation. It is evident that we must find ways of translating our interest in American creative expression into active popular support expressed in terms of purchase.

"A first step in this direction might be taken in an Art Week, which would bring the situation forcibly to the attention of the American people. I feel that a program of this kind planned and initiated by interested leaders in the arts and conducted with the cooperation of Federal, State, and municipal agencies is important at this time."

## AN ANSWER TO NATURE'S BLITZKRIEG

(Each symbol represents 100,000 trees planted)



## American Art and Crafts to the Front

One purpose of National Art Week, which will be observed throughout the country from November 25 to December 1, is to bring the work of American artists and craftsmen into the American home, the business office, the church, the club, and the social group.

This Nation-wide art fair of "American Art for Every Home" will include local sales-ex-

hibitions and demonstrations of arts and crafts. It will be organized and conducted with the cooperation of all individuals, groups, organizations, and agencies, public and private, interested in arts and crafts.

Our country today is turning toward the arts as at no other time in the history of the Republic. A great tide of popular interest in

## 4-H Resourcefulness

Despite the handicap of burning a hole in the dress she was to wear in the next day's district 4-H dressmaking contest at Douglas, Ga., as winner of the Bulloch County contest, Jessie Iler came out victorious. She arose at 4 o'clock on the morning of the district contest and replaced with a new piece of material, the portion of the dress which she had accidentally scorched when pressing it the night before.

Orderly arrangement in the kitchen was the theme of Pawnee County's home-economics booth which won first prize at the Kansas State Fair. The booth pointed out the suggestion that the homemaker plan the storage spaces in her kitchen to fit the articles she has to store. It also showed that some 300 Pawnee County women received information for improving the storage facilities of their kitchens during the past year.

## **Isolated Communities . . .**

in Watauga County, N. C., where roads are impassable during the winter months, now have home demonstration programs. With the aid of organized groups who sponsor the work in isolated communities, Home Agent Elizabeth Bridge has found a way to carry the extension program into these communities during the summer months.

"Each summer the clubs select a few communities in which work is done during that season," says Miss Bridge. "A few club women go with me to these meetings, where we try to give the small community groups a clear idea of home demonstration work. As these communities develop and the roads are improved to permit winter travel, we hope to make some of these groups into organized clubs."

## **A Forest Products Cooperative . . .**

is attracting considerable attention in Snohomish County, Wash. The association was formed by 45 farmers in an effort to help them in marketing products from their farm woodlands. Holdings of most of the members are small, and an effort is being made to gain advantage in marketing the products in sizable lots rather than in little "dabs."

## **The Woods-Management Contest . . .**

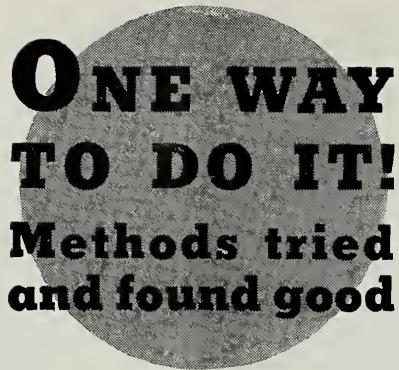
in Lorain County, Ohio, is really a 5-year plan for the better management of farm woodlands. The United States Forest Service says the plan is revolutionary in that farmers will improve woodlands—a crop already growing—instead of confining their activities to the usual regime of tree planting only.

The Extension Service has worked out a farm-woods and reforestation score card for each grange in Lorain County. Each member of the grange will be awarded points based upon work in the woods which he actually does himself. Of a possible 100 points a year, he can earn 50 for protecting his woods from grazing and fencing out livestock; 25 points for tree planting or reforestation, including windbreaks; and 25 for improving his woods by such practices as releasing tree growth from vines, and cutting weed, diseased, or poorly formed trees. Credit points will also be given to woodland owners who select the trees they cut rather than clear cutting or slashing the tract.

It will be interesting to watch this experiment in woods planning.

## **4-H Summer-Fallowing . . .**

activities have created much interest among young and old in Cheyenne County, Kans.



Boys are definitely interested in this project of summer-fallowing land for wheat or sorghum production; and it proved to be one of the most interesting activities of last year, according to Agricultural Agent H. J. Stewart. The local executive board and other leading farmers believe that the storing of moisture conservation through summer following is the most important farm practice that can be impressed on the minds of 4-H boys.

Mr. Stewart, 4-H members, and leaders made a tour in the spring to determine moisture depth in the various fields at the time cultivation work started. The club members kept a record during the summer of the rainfall and the cost of the various tillage operations. A second tour of inspection was made at wheat-seeding time in the fall to determine the final depth of moisture stored during the summer-fallowing season. A special demonstration of terracing and contour farming for the community was established by one of the 4-H boys, whose 12-acre field was summer-fallowed and planted to Colby milo in contoured rows. Several members of his club assisted in surveying his field and were present when the terracing work started.

## **A Radio Camp . . .**

that was educational as well as recreational received universal approval of club members and their parents this summer in Colorado.

With radio as the theme, the boys and girls were divided into four "networks," the red, blue, yellow, and green. Each network was divided into four stations with call letters "borrowed" from Denver radio stations. Each working group had about 20 members, and each member was labeled with a large cardboard "mike" upon which was printed his name and station. The network was indicated by the color of the label.

At the first lunch hour, each station group located all its members and elected a station leader. The station leaders then met and selected a leader for each network, and the network leaders selected a camp leader. The leaders of stations and networks had definite duties to perform at the camp and were responsible for their own groups.

Class work began the morning after registration at 9 o'clock. Entomology, scrapbooks,

news stories, and radio were studied diligently. Laboratory work produced real news stories of camp happenings, fine scrapbooks, "bug" collections, and well-organized radio programs. The radio programs were presented by each group over the public-address system at the camp and were surprisingly professional in nature. Competition between the stations and the networks was keen, to say the least.

Several talks were given by outside speakers at assembly periods. A banker spoke on the subject, Dollars and Sense; a minister discussed vocational guidance, and the extension entomologist gave a nature talk. Classroom work continued during mornings of the second and third days, with afternoons set aside for hikes and assemblies. The fourth day was devoted to recreation entirely, with the camp breaking up early in the afternoon.

County extension and home demonstration agents from the four counties divided their work with definite assignments for each. Ruth Demmel of Arapahoe County, Lois Lumb of Adams County, and Mary Jane Davidson of Jefferson County were the home demonstration agents cooperating in conducting the camp. The county extension agents were C. M. Drage of Jefferson, H. G. Smith of Douglas, A. H. Tedmon of Arapahoe, and H. A. Sandhouse of Adams County.

## **A News-Writing School . . .**

to teach the average farm leader how to write simple news articles has been started in Darke County, Ohio, by County Agent D. P. Miller in cooperation with the extension and local editors. The laboratory method is being used; that is, farmers are encouraged to write stories of activities within their communities and bring them to the next meeting, where the articles are criticized and rewritten if necessary.

The six meetings held last year had an average attendance of 15 persons. "The news-writing school will be continued during the coming winter, and it is hoped that a weekly farm page will be run in the Greenville Daily Advocate," says Mr. Miller. "This is a new type of extension project, but it has received hearty response from those leaders who feel a need for it. The extension office has pointed the way for this activity during the past several years by establishing a regular news release for both the daily and weekly county papers."

## **Sharing the Results of Their Thinking . . .**

by pooling their data and clarifying their ideas, Massachusetts 4-H leaders, in their discussion groups, contribute to intercreative thinking which they believe is a necessity in a democracy. According to the junior leaders, it is becoming increasingly evident that de-

mocracy to live, must show signs of life. Its members must be stirred from their terrifying complacency and lethargy to a rediscovered and revitalized appreciation of their precious heritage. This theme permeated each discussion hour in the sixth annual junior leaders' discussion group project at Massachusetts State College, which closed July 19. The next week, adult leaders discussed the subject of human conservation, a topic based on the report of the National Conference of Supervisors of County Agricultural and Home Demonstration Agents, held in Washington, D. C., May 6 to 10, 1940. The group thinking of this second conference centered around the following theme, taken from the Washington report: "The problem is to conserve both natural and human resources. Where human resources are lost, an upset occurs in the balance in human living similar to the upset in the balance in natural resources, and human erosion starts."

The enrollment was 185 during the first week and 90 the second.

The first session opened with a general assembly, at which the discussion leader, Mrs. Herbert T. Hatch, of Hanover, Mass., surveyed the week's project and emphasized the importance of both a listening and a contributive attitude in discussion groups.

At the open-forum discussion which followed these introductory remarks, 22 privileges we enjoy all too casually were suggested by members of the conference. On succeeding days the group was subdivided into seven smaller groups, each led by a county club agent with club agents also as secretaries. Each day one privilege was presented for discussion, and the responsibilities it entailed were listed and analyzed by club members. At the end of the course, a "balance sheet" was required from each participant, recording the following: "What I have received from the United States: what I have repaid to the United States, to date; what further I have decided to do to repay my indebtedness."

Written reports recording conclusions reached by the individual groups were passed out to members each day. Copies of these reports and of the material presented are on file at the State office.

The topic Human Conservation, was developed in a similarly thoroughgoing fashion by the adult leaders. Attitudes, family relationships, sense of values, ability to work with others, self-expression, training in skills and satisfactions in living, and religion were studied; and concrete, definitely constructive techniques were evolved for help in conducting local clubs.

At the end of each week, seven panel discussions were presented by members of the conference. Among the subjects discussed were: The vote; Prejudice, its source; Prejudice, its results; Recognizing and avoiding prejudice; Should people have more money than they can spend?; Conservation of our resources; and Can 4-H leaders take criticism?



■ Secretary Wickard was greeted by several Indiana county agents the evening of September 9, when he was back at his alma mater, Purdue University, to be the guest of honor at a banquet given by the agricultural alumni association of that institution. Left to right, they are: W. J. Emerson, Monticello; H. E. Abbott, Indianapolis; W. W. Whitehead, Lebanon; R. J. Maggart, Delphi, the agent in Wickard's home county of Carroll; Secretary Wickard; E. M. Rowe, Frankfort; L. E. Hoffman, Purdue, associate county agent leader; and A. A. Irwin, Indianapolis, assistant agent.

■ Texas farmers are learning that the safest and most economical way to save feed is to bury it in a trench silo, says E. R. Eudaly, Texas extension dairyman. Last year 3,446,591 tons of feed estimated at \$17,232,955 were buried in 28,831 trench silos throughout the State. The size of the silos varies from 1- to 10,000-ton capacity and they are built on all kinds of soil. Approximately 2,000 trench silos are filled with threshed grain sorghums, grain-sorghum heads, barley, and ear corn. Some are filled with whole bundles of sweet sorghums, grain sorghums, corn, Sudan grass, and Johnson grass, which sometimes are chopped up with an ensilage cutter. Other trench silos are stored with carrots, beets, citrus peel and pulp, English pea vines, alfalfa, cowpeas, and prickly pear (cactus).

■ DR. FREDERICK P. WEAVER, formerly assistant director of the Pennsylvania Extension Service and a member of the faculty at Pennsylvania State College for 40 years, died September 5. He came to the college as assistant in agricultural chemistry in 1910 and served in that capacity until 1915, when he was appointed assistant State leader of county agents.

From 1920 to 1925 he served as assistant

extension director. He then became head of the department of agricultural economics at the college, which position he filled until ill health forced him to retire in February 1938. Upon his retirement he was appointed emeritus professor of agricultural economics.

Other positions that he filled with great credit to himself and valuable service to the public during his busy life were collaborator, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in charge of farm taxation studies, 1925-26; member, Mineral and Forest Land Taxation Commission of Pennsylvania, 1932-33; member, Committees on Taxation and on Rural Housing of President Hoover's Housing Commission, 1931-32; and director, Farm Credit Administration of Baltimore since 1933.

■ HAZEL S. DUNN, 4-H Club agent of Schenectady County, N. Y., and M. M. LaCroix, Louisiana State club agent, are taking graduate work this year in the United States Department of Agriculture Graduate School in Washington, D. C. Mr. LaCroix, an extension veteran of 21 years' service in Louisiana, is making a special study of 4-H Club and older youth activities, with special emphasis on local leadership. Extension reports on file in the Federal office are the source of his research.

# Dividends From a 4-H Home-Account Book



La Von Graham, a 17-year-old club girl, keeps the home accounts to good purpose.

A higher standard of living, reduced medical bills, and an appreciation of the value of knowing the ratio between farm and home expenditures and profits are the extra dividends one Michigan family has derived through the completion of a girl's 1939-40 4-H Club project in home accounts.

"Where has all the money gone?"

As it is in most farm homes, that question was of prime importance in the rural residence of 17-year-old La Von Graham, R. F. D. 6, Grand Rapids, Mich. She says that she has not entirely solved the problem yet.

Miss Graham started in 4-H work 9 years ago when an older sister joined a clothing club. Since that time she has progressed in the 4-H world until last year she became leader of the Caledonia Club after 20 girls had signed a petition requesting her services in that capacity.

She became interested in her winning project, home accounts, because her mother wanted someone to keep track of home expenditures. The girl's early efforts met with obstacles in the lack of family cooperation. By the time the project year had ended, all members of the family had become intensely interested in learning where the money went.

Miss Graham's gravest error in beginning inventories, she says, came from expecting her family to remain healthy. Accordingly, she estimated \$50 for medical care, only to dis-

cover, on casting up her books, that the actual bills came to more than \$200.

Such mistakes were errors of calculation rather than wasteful spending; and they have already pointed the way toward a reduction of total expenditures, Miss Graham believes. For instance, next year she plans to make her original \$50-health-bill estimate ring true by building up the family's health resistance through the use of more fresh fruit and vegetables plus occasional doses of cod-liver oil.

Miss Graham's biggest surprise came when she learned from her accounts that the family in a year used nearly \$400 worth of milk, eggs, and potatoes. Proud of the fact that they do not skimp but realizing that their farm income will remain the same in future years, she plans to reduce food expenditures by raising a garden, canning and storing more fruits and vegetables, and placing more home-produced meat on the family table.

Miss Graham also learned through the medium of facts and figures that seemingly unimportant personal habits often turn black figures to red on expenditure-profit books. "After keeping complete accounts for a year, I no longer swish through weeds in silk hose," she comments; "and I've learned that care with nonessentials of that sort will, in the long run, save money for me and for my family."

Although she recognizes the fact that her first home-account book has been an experiment, she credits the project for making the entire family more aware of expenditures in proportion to income and has gained a personal appreciation of the financial load carried by her father and mother. Next year Miss Graham plans to make sure that the extra burden is shared by all members of the family rather than by her parents alone.

Although she started keeping a home-account book for her own and her family's benefit, Miss Graham had no expectation of winning any honors in the first year of her project. Getting her family's interest and approval, plus the fact that her father and brother decided to keep a farm-account book next year, made the project successful in her eyes; and, she said, when urged into competition, "I know my account book has not been perfect, but I thought it wiser to educate the family gradually to the idea rather than to nag them and make this an unpopular project."

Encouraged by County Home Demonstration Agent Eleanor Densmore, and the County Agricultural Agent Keats K. Vining, Miss Graham submitted her books and the project report for further competition. As a result, she was named individual winner in county

and State competition and placed in the blue-ribbon group of national winners.

## Flood Emergency

Extension workers of southwest Louisiana immediately went into action to help rehabilitate 13,600 farm families who were victims of the flood last August which inundated eight parishes, namely, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, Lafayette, Calcasieu, Vermilion, Acadia, Cameron, and St. Martin. Refugee camps were established at strategic points to take care of some 6,300 families made homeless and destitute. After the flood subsided the home demonstration agents prepared quantity recipes, using foodstuffs distributed by the Surplus Marketing Administration; they supervised refugee kitchens and outlined plans for planting gardens and reconditioning homes and furniture.

Vermilion Parish was the heaviest sufferer from the disaster. In that parish between 3,000 and 4,000 families require total rehabilitation. The same is true of 1,200 families in St. Martin Parish. In Jefferson Davis Parish, 200 farm families must be totally rehabilitated; 600 need partial rehabilitation, and about 200 will need some aid to carry them through the fall and winter. In St. Landry Parish, 550 families lost everything and 700 needed some help. In Lafayette Parish 500 families and in Calcasieu Parish 250 families were total losers. The flood disaster was the worst of its kind to visit Louisiana since 1927.

In the rehabilitation program, agricultural district agents are supervising the work of the county agents in heading up and coordinating the various relief agencies which include extension forces, members of the Farm Security Administration and vocational agricultural leaders, and in the distribution of surplus commodities.

## ON THE CALENDAR

Fifty-fourth Annual Land-Grant College Meeting, Chicago, Ill., November 11-13.  
Annual Meeting of the Future Farmers of America, Kansas City, Mo., November 11-14.  
Annual Meeting of the National Grange, Syracuse, N. Y., November 13-21.  
National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 30-December 6.  
International Livestock Show, Chicago, Ill., December 1-7.  
Annual Meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Chicago, Ill., December 2-4.  
American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting, Chicago, Ill., December 4-6.  
The Annual Meeting of the Christian Rural Fellowship, New York, N. Y., December 5-6.  
Annual Convention American Farm Bureau Federation, Baltimore, Md., December 9-12.  
Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Society of American Foresters, Washington, D. C., December 19-21.  
Convention of American National Livestock Association, Fort Worth, Tex., January 7-9.  
Association of Southern Agricultural Workers Meeting, Atlanta, Ga., February 5-7.

# They Say Today

## To Unify America

To unify America there must be an ideal for which all classes of people are willing to work and sacrifice. Hitler offered Germany the ideal of the Third Reich. Our own ideal, which is far stronger than Germany's, is the historic American dream of America as the land of opportunity for the common man. It is the ideal of a true democracy for America, a democracy which will demand the end of inequality and abuse in our present system, a democracy that will demand an end to the domination of our national life by small selfish groups. Such a democracy will demand an end to the practices that have caused many of our youth to describe America as a "racket" for the benefit of a few. Our American unity, freely imposed, will demand hardship and sacrifice, but it will promise and it will accomplish the fulfillment of our dream for an American way of life dedicated to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens.—*Karl Olsen, Associate Information Specialist, Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense.*

## Social Defenses

Despite much social progress, there are still strategically dangerous gaps in the lines of our most vital social defenses. Very recently one-third of our people were found to be ill-housed, ill-clothed, and ill-fed. The rural people, who constitute almost one-third of the people, received less than one-tenth of the national income. These are the people with the least proportion of wealth, but with the largest proportion of children.

In addition, one-half of the farm population received one-tenth of the cash farm income. The 2½ million tenant farmers have too little stake in the land they till, and uncounted hundreds of thousands of migrant workers wander, uprooted from earth and home, looking for seasonal employment; millions of underprivileged Negroes, unassimilated and exploited foreign-born, oppressed religious and racial minorities; remaining millions of unorganized and underpaid workers, and other disinherited millions are waiting subjects for fifth-column activities and subversive influences against the inner morale of the long-forgotten millions and the basic and total defense of the Nation which failed to provide the very freedom and democracy we would have them defend.

America, in her economic might, and in the original faith of our fathers, has moved and must continue to move to fill in these dangerous gaps in our social defenses and to guarantee life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all the people whose health, vigor, efficiency, economic opportunity, social well-being, democ-

racic morale, and spiritual faith are both the first and the last line of our national defense. Social defense is basic and must be a part of any defense that would be total defense.—*Frank Graham, President, University of North Carolina. (From the report made by Dr. Graham, August 2, 1940, as leader of the discussion group on social well-being, to the Conference of National Civic Organizations called by Harriet Elliott, Consumer Adviser on the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense.)*

## The Defense of Freedom

A breath-taking world, where only headlines are able to keep pace with vital forces of history, has thrust suddenly upon Americans a deep concern for the preservation—and defense, if need be—of our heritage of freedom. The rush of events and a sense of impending danger have made that heritage seem infinitely more precious, but paradoxically, have allowed us little time to define our freedom clearly or to work out a definite formula for its preservation.

One reason for this confusion arises from the nature of freedom itself. "There are, so far as I can discover," says one writer, "no absolutists of liberty. I can recall no doctrine of liberty, which, under the acid test, does not become contingent upon some other ideal. The goal is never liberty, but liberty for something or other." It is not surprising, then, that, like the blind men and the elephant, many Americans have come to identify freedom with special privilege. Many industrialists have felt that freedom meant the right to exploit their fellows; many citizens have used their freedom to ignore civic duty; many politicians have made freedom the means to distort issues for corrupt ends. Too many of us have seen in freedom the opportunity to get as much as we can for as little as possible.

The central goal of a democratic society is the common good, and the freedom in democracy implies that the responsibility for achieving that ideal shall rest equally on every man's shoulders. We are free to direct the destiny of America, but we must accept the consequences for the result. We are free heedlessly to waste our resources, but we must accept the consequences of dust bowls and erosion. We are free to allow groups among us to exploit others, but the whole nation must face the resulting poverty of body and spirit. We are free to retain antiquated economic systems, but we must face inevitable unemployment.

An even graver responsibility has been placed on the shoulders of free men everywhere within the past few years. For the first time in its 150-year-old history, democ-

racy as a way of life has been placed on the defensive in a hostile world. Competing ideologies have achieved fearful efficiency in government and economy and a tremendously effective force of arms through denial of individual liberty and centralization of control. The great test for democracy elsewhere in the world is now being met. The test for American democracy is approaching. The outcome depends upon the use men make of their freedom.

For freedom, to be successfully preserved, demands an even more rigorous bondage and discipline than does tyranny, because the bondage is to truth and justice, and the discipline is self-imposed. The athlete who wins must practice stern self-control in habits and discipline in exercise. The scholar achieves greatness through disciplined thinking; the wonders of science which have helped free us from toil and disease were attained by discovering and observing the laws of nature.

In government, freedom is frequently the hardest, not the most pleasant, path. Tyranny is largely an admission of defeat. It results when men no longer possess the courage, the sense of responsibility, and, above all, the intelligence to govern themselves.

The best defenses of freedom are free minds, and free minds must possess both understanding and intelligence.—*Editorial—The Louisiana Leader, September 1940.*

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